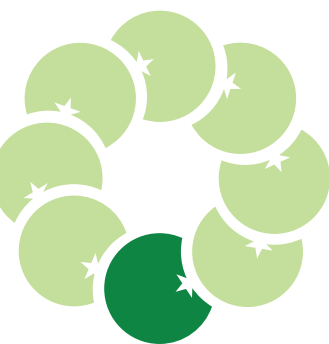




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SUNDAY
November 12, 2017



SPORTS • B1

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'NO ANSWERS, NO REFUND'

Youth football team scrambling after paying \$20,000 for Island Air flights

Dennis Fujimoto
THE GARDEN ISLAND

LIHUE — Brad Hiranaka, commissioner for the Kauai Youth Football league, is worried.

Kauai Youth Football was booked on Island Air to fly from Lihue to Honolulu on Nov. 17 with 63 players, coaches and staff.

They will be joined by an additional 91 players, coaches and staff on Nov. 18 with plans to play football at Waipahu Field with Junior Prep Sports on Nov. 18 and take in

the First Hawaiian Bank Hawaii High School Athletic Association football championships at Aloha Stadium.

But there's a problem. A big one.

"I got a text message from the Island Air sales manager Thursday night," Hiranaka said.

"We are trying to get the refund from Island Air so we can try and salvage this trip, but so far, there are no answers, or refund. We are in a very stressful position. We paid nearly \$20,000 for airfare, and another \$19,000 for rooms, buses,

vans and game tickets (for the HH-SAA championships). All of these players and cheerleaders worked so hard in fundraising efforts to make the trip possible."

Hiranaka said he's contacted Hawaiian Airlines and arranged to have seats put on hold, pending the refund from Island Air.

"But this is going to mean additional money because we need to come up with hotel rooms for the group planning to arrive Nov. 18," Hiranaka said.

"It breaks down to about \$30 more for each person just for the

airfare adjustments."

Impact of the Island Air ceasing operations effective Saturday rumbled across Kauai.

Maui robotics squad here left to scramble

"They didn't tell us about this until we were on our way here," said Anne Bailey, a teacher with the First Tech Challenge robotics team from St. Anthony's on Maui.

"We were booked with Island Air, but they aren't flying after Friday. How are we supposed to get back?" Bailey said she spent her morn-

ing on the phone with Hawaiian Airlines to salvage the trip while her students competed in the first Tech Challenge at the Wilcox Gymnasium on the Island School campus.

"We're the only team on Maui," Bailey said. "We opted to come to Kauai rather than host a tournament."

Following her conversations with Hawaiian Airlines, Bailey said they would depart Kauai on Saturday as planned.

"They could take the whole

SEE SCRAMBLING, A8

briefly

'Chefs on a Mission'

LIHUE — Five of the finest chefs on Kauai will be preparing specialty dishes for the first "Chefs on a Mission Dinner, A Taste of Kauai," from 5 to 9 p.m. Saturday at the Kauai Marriott Resort & Beach Club.

Proceeds will benefit Lihue Lutheran Ministries, help feed Kauai's own and provide for youth ministry programs. Head Chef Guy Higa of the Kauai Marriott Resort & Beach Club is one of the chefs.

There will be music, hula and a silent auction.

Kauai County Councilman Derek Kawakami will be the master of ceremonies.

Tickets are \$100.
Info: 245-2145

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Volume 113 Number 316

Service & Sacrifice



DENNIS FUJIMOTO / THE GARDEN ISLAND

Members of C Troop 1-299 Cavalry, Hanapepe, stand ready to offer the 21-gun salute Saturday against the backdrop of the American and Hawaiian flags belonging to Vietnam veteran George Inouye at the Veterans Day service hosted by the Kauai Veterans Council at the Kauai Veterans Cemetery in Hanapepe.

About 500 attend Veterans Day ceremony in Hanapepe

Dennis Fujimoto
THE GARDEN ISLAND

HANAPEPE — Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard said via her Kauai representative that it is the sacrifice and dedication of our nation's 23 million veterans that we owe our deepest gratitude to Saturday during the Veterans Day service

presented by the Kauai Veterans Council at the Kauai Veterans Cemetery.

"I've experienced firsthand the depth of selflessness and commitment that the men and women of our armed forces possess — not only for their country, but for



Gabbard

one another," Gabbard said in remarks presented by Kaulana Finn, her constituent outreach liaison. "We would not be the country that we are today without their sacrifice and service."

The congresswoman, a soldier in the Hawaii Army National Guard and a veteran of two Middle East deployments, is visiting Maui to celebrate Vietnam veter-

ans on the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam war.

"Veterans Day is special to me," she said. "It's a day when I often get to

...
INSIDE
Veterans Day celebrated around the world, A5

SEE VETERANS, A8

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